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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/912,955	07/25/2001	Hiroshi Katayama	SONYJP 3.0-193	7140
530	7590	05/14/2004	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			VO, TUNG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	<i>5</i>
DATE MAILED: 05/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	KATAYAMA, HIROSHI
Examiner	Art Unit
Tung T. Vo	2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed on 07/25/01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2001/0026677 A1.

Re claims 1, 7, 10, and 13, Chen discloses an apparatus and method for decoding an MPEG picture stream (figs. 2 and 3), comprising:

an input unit, a digital front end, (210 of fig. 3, e.g. for receiving the MEPEG stream data including I-slice and P frame or image or picture) operable to input an MPEG picture stream formed by an intra picture and a predictive coded picture, wherein the input an MPEG picture stream has been selected;

a demultiplexer (100 of fig. 3) operable to extract the input stream include a plurality of MPEG pictures

a decoder (220 of fig. 3) operable to decode each of said pictures of said input MPEG picture stream to produce a decoding result;

a controller, a processor, (230 of fig. 3) operable to instruct said decoder to start decoding;

a writing unit (240 of fig. 3, for writing the input stream data into the memory) operable to store said decoding result in a picture memory; and

a reading unit (240 of fig. 3, e.g. the memory (240) can read out the input stream data to output to the decoder (220)) operable to obtain output picture data from said picture memory;

wherein, when said predictive coded picture includes an intra slice or an intra macroblock (102 of fig. 2), said decoder decodes said intra slice or said intra macroblock after being instructed to start decoding by said controller without waiting for said intra picture to be decoded (102, 103 of fig. 2, see also fig. 1).

Re claims 3, 4, 9, and 15, Chen further discloses further including a storage unit (240 of fig. 3) operable to store a position of a macroblock decoded by said decoder, wherein said decoder determines whether said reference macroblock has previously been decoded on the basis of a stored content of said storage unit (370 of fig. 4).

Re claims 5 and 11, Chen further discloses wherein, when said input MPEG picture stream is changed, and when said predictive coded picture of said changed input MPEG picture stream includes an intra slice or an intra macroblock, said decoder decodes said intra slice or said intra macroblock to produce a new decoding result without waiting for said intra picture of said changed input MPEG picture stream to be decoded, and said writing unit overwrites said picture memory with said new decoding result ([0031]-[0036], pages 3 and 4).

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Re claims 2, 6, 8, 12, and 14, Chen further discloses wherein said decoder is operable to decode each of said pictures of said input MPEG picture stream on the basis of a reference macroblock (320 of fig. 4), and wherein, when said reference macroblock has previously been decoded to produce a reference decoding result stored in said picture memory (325 of fig. 4), said decoder is further operable to decode a non-intra slice and a non-intra macroblock of said predictive coded picture by using said reference decoding result after being instructed to start decoding by said controller without waiting for said intra picture to be decoded (355 of fig. 4).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kwon (US 6,069,919) discloses an encoder to encode a I-slice in P-picture to produce an predictive coded picture.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris. Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TUNG T. VO
PATENT EXAMINER

T.VO

Tung T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2613